

NOS DISASTER RESPONSE PLANNING What We Were Directed to Do

GOAL:

Develop an effective NOS all hazards emergency response plan for natural, technological and other extreme environmental events.

Specific Task:

Develop a natural disaster response plan for NOS

- Ensure effective application of NOS capabilities
- Coordinate NOS disaster response
- Seek out and develop leadership roles for NOS

NOS DISASTER RESPONSE PLANNING Choosing a Starting Point

Starting Point - Stafford Act events

Practical Reasons for Focus

Federal framework already exists
NOS has legitimate connections

Best opportunity to build experience, expertise, connections

Experience easily transferable to other locations/events

NOS DISASTER RESPONSE PLANNING The Team's Approach

- Identify our constituencies
 - Federal Constituency
 - State and Local agencies
- **♦ Identify capabilities**
 - What we can do
 - What we will do
- **♦** Identify needs based on input, experience
- Identify existing connections, necessary connections, best connections
- **♦** Identify and eliminate potential obstacles
- ♦ Get NOS in front of the right people

NOS DISASTER RESPONSE PLANNING Where We Were to Be By Now

- **♦** Specification of NOS emergency Response Authorities
 - We're there
- ♦ Detailed list of NOS emergency response capabilities
 - 80% done
- ◆ Initiate, continue discussions with FEMA to determine best fit
 - More focused discussions required.
- ♦ Assess state and local needs, mechanisms to address needs
 - Requested input from state CZM managers.

NOS DISASTER RESPONSE PLANNING Where We Were to Be By Now Cont.

- Establishing pilot projects with state/local agencies
 - Pilot Projects states selected; North Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi.
- Identify gaps in federal response planning for non-Stafford act events appropriate for NOS Leadership
 - Limited effort thus far
- Review of internal and external (to NOS) response plans for potential linkage
 - Not done

NOS DISASTER RESPONSE PLANNING Final Deadlines

- **♦** August 1999
 - Final draft "National Ocean Service Emergency Response Plan for Natural Disasters" to AA
 - Detailed strategy to address emerging response areas
- January 2000
 - Plan for initial testing of plan (drill)
 - Identification of training needs
 - Specification of administrative/personnel requirements for implementing plan

NOS DISASTER RESPONSE PLANNING Final Deadlines Cont.

♦ August 2000

- Outreach materials for state and local governments on NOS activities capabilities available to assist on planning, response, restoration.

January 2001

- Integration of NOS response plan into a NOAA response plan

NOS DISASTER RESPONSE PLANNING What we've done - Major Related Activities

- Hurricane Bonnie Response- August 1998
 - Deployed NOS personnel to Disaster Fields Office, aerial photography, storm surge reports to NWS, geodetic and hydro survey capability on standby, other specialized personnel on standby with supplies and equipment.
- Hurricane Georges Response
 - Deployed NOS personnel to Disaster Field Office, deployed hydro survey party to Key West, Post Storm Data Acquisition aerial photography collected, storm surge reports to NWS, specialized support to FEMA and states

NOS DISASTER RESPONSE PLANNING What we've done - Major Related Activities cont.

- Hurricane Mitch Response
 - Prepared NOS proposal for assistance to Honduras and Nicaragua on three separate occasions each with less than 24 hours notice,
- NOS appointed to USAID committee for Mitch response, NOS staff detailed to Secretary's office to pull together DOC response.
- Established NOS Representation
 - Interagency Coordinating Committee On Hurricanes
 - Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan Activities

NOS DISASTER RESPONSE PLANNING Major Remaining Efforts through 1999

Immediate Goal is to have a functional plan in place, with critical connections and mechanisms in place by mid-June - all activities in the next two months are directed to that end

- Complete Items Outstanding from March deadline; shift to end of May
 - Detailed capabilities list
 - Review of internal/external (to NOS) plans and MOUs
- Continue substantive discussions with FEMA to Facilitate arrangements for tasking and deployment.

NOS DISASTER RESPONSE PLANNING Major Remaining Efforts through 1999 Cont.

- Final assessment of state needs
- Details of pilot projects with North Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi
- For non-Stafford Act events planning, focus on HAB events
 - Except for NCCOS activity request to put this on back burner until we have our basic operating plan in place for this hurricane season.
- Complete draft plan
- Respond to Disasters

NOS DISASTER RESPONSE PLANNING Closing Thoughts

- We learned from our early response efforts, and we made significant contributions.
- Central coordination of information, deployment of capabilities, and communication is essential.
- NOS folks deployed to the field must be prepared to answer questions about cross-NOS capabilities.

NOS DISASTER RESPONSE PLANNING Closing Thoughts Cont.

- We should reasonably expect to bear some costs associated with responding to disasters since this year will still involve substantial marketing of our capabilities.
- **Expect the final draft due in August to be modified based on what we learn this hurricane season.**
- Review progress with team members you appointed to speak for your office.